



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Grant Workshop

FY2022 Section 319(h) Grant

March 1, 2022



SECTION 319(H) GRANT WORKSHOP AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

Section 319(h) Grant Background – Blue Cole

- FY2022 Grant Timeline
- Grant Policies
 - Eligible Applicants
 - Funding Amount
 - Minimum Project Requirements
 - Examples of Eligible and Ineligible Projects

Online Application Instructions – Joy Hinkle

Scoring Criteria – Joy Hinkle

Q&A with the Grants Unit



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Today's Speakers

FY2022 Coordinator: Blue Cole

Grants Unit Manager: Joy Hinkle

Grant Administrators

Mary Gazaway

Joyce McClain

Barbara Stitt Allen





SECTION 319(H) GRANT BACKGROUND

- 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act provides states, territories, and tribes grant money to support a wide variety of activities under the Nonpoint Source Management Program.
- Georgia EPD conducts a competitive process to fund eligible projects that will lead to direct reductions in pollutant loads and measurable water quality improvements in impaired waters throughout the state.





FY2022 GRANT TIMELINE

FY2022 Grant Timeline

- January 31, 2022: GAEPD opened the 319(h) Grant Application Portal
- **March 1, 2022: Online Application Workshop**
- **April 30, 2022:** Deadline to submit applications via the 319(h) Grant Application Portal
- Late Spring 2022: Scoring Committee reviews and scores all applications
- Summer 2022: GAEPD notifies applicants of grant award
- Fall 2022: GAEPD and grant recipients finalize project scope of work and execute contract



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Public entities in Georgia are eligible applicants, including:

- City and county governments with Qualified Local Government Status as defined in paragraph 18 of subsection (a) of O.C.G.A. 50-8-2
- State agencies
- Local, regional, or State authorities operating jurisdictional services and/or delivery programs
- Regional Commissions
- Resource Conservation and Development Councils
- Local and regional school systems
- State colleges and universities



MINIMUM PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

**All projects must address nonpoint sources of pollution
to improve water quality**

1. Implement an existing watershed-based plan that meets USEPA's Nine Elements of Watershed Planning or implement an alternative to a watershed-based plan in the form of a Summary of Nine Elements.
2. Locate the project in a watershed or drainage area equal in size to a 10-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-10) or smaller.
3. Commit to a minimum 40% non-Federal Match that can be accomplished through local funds, in-kind services, or other non-Federal sources.



9-ELEMENT WATERSHED-BASED PLANS

U.S. EPA NINE ELEMENTS OF WATERSHED PLANNING

ELEMENT (A): Identification of pollutant & impairment causes & sources

ELEMENT (B): Pollutant load reduction estimates expected from best management practices (BMP)

ELEMENT (C): Nonpoint source (NPS) best management practices (bmp) and critical target areas for BMP installation

ELEMENT (D): Financial & technical assistance to implement BMP, associated costs and sources of funds

ELEMENT (E): Education and outreach to encourage public participation in plan implementation

ELEMENT (F): BMP implementation schedule

ELEMENT (G): Interim milestones to determine progress of BMP implementation

ELEMENT (H): Set of criteria to monitor and assess BMP

ELEMENT (I): Component to determine plan implementation effectiveness



ALTERNATIVE SUMMARY OF NINE ELEMENTS

- If a watershed-based plan does not exist, applicants may create a new, separate document – a Summary of Nine Elements
- Acceptable alternatives to be used as the foundation for a Summary of Nine Elements:
 - Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) Reports
 - TMDL Implementation Plans
 - Watershed protection plans
 - Stormwater management plans
 - Source water protection plans
 - Watershed studies and data reports
 - Other water resource management documents.
 - Any of Georgia's eleven (11) Regional Water Plans



FUNDING AMOUNT

- Maximum award is **\$400,000** and up to **60%** of the total project cost
- Minimum non-Federal match of **40%** of the total project cost
- **Total Anticipated FY2022 Funding = Approximately \$1.9 Million**
- Projects should be completed within 36 months of execution date





EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development BMPs
- Watershed Restoration, including stream restoration and hydromodifications
- Urban stormwater controls not included in NPDES permits
- Agricultural BMPs that address water quality **and** meet Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practices standards
- Septic system repairs and replacement
- Education and training
- Water quality monitoring that meets minimum GAEPD standards



INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements (including Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, Phase I & II MS4 Stormwater Permits, Wastewater Permits, etc.) or elements mandated in a permit (i.e., mandated Watershed Assessments and/or Protection Plans)
- Watershed monitoring required under a NPDES permit
- Projects that contribute to fulfillment of consent orders and/or decrees
- Surface paving (impervious)
- Construction of wastewater infrastructure
- Water quantity/supply projects (such as reservoirs, wells, infrastructure, etc.)
- Lake dredging or aquatic macrophyte harvesting (Note: Exceptions may be made only if ALL contributing sediment sources have been corrected.)
- Incinerators for livestock disposal (Note: Composting is the preferred practice for Section 319(h) grant funding as a means of dead livestock disposal.)
- Revising existing or developing new watershed-based plans.



ONLINE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

New for FY2022:

All applications must be submitted through the
319(h) Grant Application Portal (GAP)

319(h) GAP LINK: <https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/gaepd-319h>

- 1. Create an Account
- 2. Create an Organization Profile
- 3. Complete Application Section 1: Project Description
- 4. Complete Application Section 2: Project Budget
- 5. **SUBMIT all sections and supporting attachments in the portal by APRIL 30, 2022.**



SCORING CRITERIA

- All eligible projects will be scored by a review committee made up of GAEPD and USEPA staff.
- Criteria established in compliance with GAEPD and USEPA rules and guidelines.
- Responses and attachments will be evaluated and given a numeric score based on the criteria outlined in Grant Guidelines.
- Projects with the highest total scores will be awarded based on funding availability.





SCORING CRITERIA

Important for ALL Projects:

- How well does the application explain why the project is needed, the scope of the problem and/or current condition of the targeted waterbody?
- How well are the proposed activities supported by the Watershed Plan or Summary?
- How many partners provided letters of commitment describing activities or resources they will be contributing to the project and the dollar values of their donations?
- How well does the project demonstrate cost effectiveness? Do the budget and narrative sufficiently detail how the funds will be spent?
- Are the line-item total expenses (319(h) Funds Requested + Non-Federal Match) reasonable?





SCORING CRITERIA

Some projects will qualify for additional points:

- Is the lead organization designated as a WaterFirst Community?
- Will the project be located in a GAEPD Priority Watershed?
- Does the project commit to a Non-Federal match of 50% or higher?





QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

